

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02
SSM-05 SAA-01 SIG-03 PCH-02 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 /097 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/IAI - MR. KORN

-----049601 251643Z /44

O 251516Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
DOD
JCS
CIA
USICA
NSC
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 24
REF: STATE 187011
AMMAN FOR SHERMAN

FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S JULY 24
NOON PRESS BRIEFING WERE INADVERTENTLY OMITTED FROM
REFTEL TRANSCRIPT.

Q. DURING THE DEBATE ON THE PLANE DEALS, THE ADMINISTRA-
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TION HAS SAID THAT GOING AHEAD WITH THE PLANE DEALS WOULD
HELP ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF THE PEACE PROCESS. IS THERE
ANY EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS HAPPENING? SPECIFICALLY, HAS
THE SALE OF PLANES TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA HELPED THE
PEACE PROCESS?

A. I THINK WE SAW THIS AS PART OF A LONG-TERM PROCESS. I
WOULD SIMPLY CONTINUE TO SAY THAT IT SEEMS CLEAR TO US
THAT EGYPT, LIKE ISRAEL, CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN
FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

I WOULD NOT WANT TO ADD ANY CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS AS TO
WHY EACH OF THE NATIONS IN THAT AREA DO SEEM INTERESTED
THAT I AM TALKING ABOUT SPECIFICALLY, BUT THEY CLEARLY
ARE.

I DO NOT CLAIM CREDIT AS FIRST CAUSE FOR ANYTHING. I
WOULD ONLY POINT OUT THAT THE PROCESS CONTINUES AND THE
PEACE SEARCH CONTINUES.

Q. YOU SAID EARLIER THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE NOW GOING
ON ABOUT THE MEETING ITSELF, AS WELL AS ABOUT THE SITE.

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE AN AGREEMENT, A FIRM AGREEMENT, ON THE MEETING ITSELF UNTIL THE SECRETARY GOES TO THE MIDDLE EAST? OR DO YOU EXPECT ONE WELL IN ADVANCE OF HIS DEPARTURE?

A. I BELIEVE THAT HE EXPECTS THE MEETING IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE. I DON'T THINK, TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, THAT HE WOULD GO OUT TO THE MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT THERE BEING AN AGREEMENT BEFORE HE DEPARTED FOR SUCH A MEETING.

I ALSO THINK, GIVEN SOME OF THE POSSIBILITIES THAT HAVE BEEN MENTIONED FOR SUCH A MEETING, THAT YOU COULD HARDLY DO IT WITH ONE DAY'S PLANNING.

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Q. ARE THERE ANY PREPARATIONS MADE IN THE EARLY WARNING STATION FOR SUCH A MEETING IN THE SINAI?

A. I LITERALLY DON'T KNOW. I WILL SEE, BUT I WOULD SAY THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY ON THIS ONE THAT THE ANSWER WOULD BE THAT THAT SITE HAS BEEN LOOKED INTO AS A POSSIBLE SITE, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHERS THAT HAVE BEEN MENTIONED. I BELIEVE THAT THAT WOULD BE A CORRECT ANSWER WITHOUT GOING ANY FURTHER.

Q. I AM ASKING YOU IF THERE ARE ANY PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS, IF SOMEONE IS BUILDING A HUT, AND THE AIR CONDITIONING INSTALLATION?

A. I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION. I DON'T KNOW IF I WILL GET AN ANSWER.

Q. IS IT CONSIDERED LOGISTICALLY FEASIBLE, TO HAVE A MEETING AT THE SINAI FIELD MISSION SITE? IT PRESENTS AN INCREDIBLE PROBLEM.

A. YES, I KNOW.

THE LOGISTICS OF ALL THESE THINGS DEPENDS ON WHETHER IT MEANS THE LOGISTICS INVOLVED WITH THE PARTICIPANTS ONLY, THE LOGISTICS INVOLVED WITH 100 PRESS PEOPLE -- WHICH IS ANOTHER QUESTION, AND MAYBE NOT ALWAYS THE SAME IN THE

MINDS OF THE POLICY-MAKERS -- THE LOGISTICS INVOLVED IN THE MERE FACT OF WHERE THE DELEGATIONS MIGHT BE ABLE TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT OR WHETHER EVERYBODY COULD STAY OR WHETHER THEY WOULD HAVE TO COME BACK AND FORTH FROM SOME-
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PLACE ELSE.

ALL THAT IS A REAL PROBLEM. THAT IS ONE OF THE THINGS
THAT EVERYBODY IS LOOKING AT, I AM SURE, IN TRYING TO PICK
OUT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SITE.

BUT I AM NOT AWARE OF ANOTHER PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE AREA.

VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: STATE 187175 POUCHED TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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